



**Town of Montague**  
**Department, Board, Committee, Commission**  
**BUDGET NARRATIVE**

**FY 22**

***Complete this form electronically! Be clear and concise!***

Department: Town Clerk Submitted by: Deb Bourbeau

**1. Please describe and provide the rationale for any substantial changes in your FY22 line item budget submission.**

My budget is less due to only one election this year.

**2. Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY21? What is the status of those expenditures/investments?**

No funding from special articles in FY 21.

**3. Did you receive funding for a discretionary account in FY21? What have you purchased to date, at what cost? Looking forward in FY22, what do you expect to purchase at what cost?**

N/A

**4. To-date in FY21, has your department experienced any notable successes, such as improving or providing new programs or services, or implementing new technologies? If so, please describe.**

What can I say about 2020? It was a year of firsts for so many. It was an election year from hell, (pardon my French – thank God Beanie and I still have hair on our heads). LOL

The Clerk's office implemented new voting tabulators as of the Presidential Primary in March. For the first time in Montague's history votes were primarily tabulated by machine and not by hand. It was a hard concept to wrap our heads around as we were so used to decades of hand counting. We are still getting our rhythm and our process down as each type of election presents a new kink which must be incorporated. Montague's election workers have been fabulous and have eagerly stepped up to the plate. This office also relocated four precincts into one space at the Franklin County Technical School Gym due to COVID 19 new election laws and regulations. We lost some seasoned, cherished election workers that chose not work due to COVID and had to train election workers in a flash that usually takes a few years to process and understand. Keeping election workers and voters safe this year was a huge undertaking. Finding and ordering all the necessary plexi-glass and sanitizer products during a pandemic where there was a short supply of most items was a huge challenge, but we did it. The biggest obstacle and our biggest success was the vote by mail ballots. It was an undertaking that proved to be a substantial, comprehensive, statutory nightmare. The State Primary and the Presidential Elections were the highest voter turnout ever for these elections. Without the help of election workers and even my co-workers this job could not have been

accomplished by just Beanie and I. I am grateful beyond belief for all the help and dedication of everyone involved in the election process this year.

- 5. Are there challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and objectives that are due to its FY21 operating budget? If so, offer your recommendation(s) for improving the situation.**

No Challenges.